



US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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The Uncompahgre RMP Newsletter

Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Available

The Uncompahgre Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available for your review and comment. A notice of availability announcing the release of the draft RMP and draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on June 3, 2016, initiating the 90-day public comment period.

Thank you to those who have participated in the RMP revision process this far by providing valuable input that helped inform and guide the development of the draft RMP and draft EIS. We would now like to hear from you again. The RMP, once approved, will guide the management of public lands administered by the Uncompahgre Field Office and it is important that the BLM receives your comments on the draft RMP.

During the comment period the BLM will hold a series of public open-house meetings across the planning area. You are encouraged to attend the public meetings to learn more about the draft RMP and how to comment effectively. At these open-house meetings, BLM managers and resource specialists will be available to answer questions. The public meetings will provide attendees a brief overview of the plan, tips on document navigation, and helpful information about making effective comments. Information about the locations, dates and times of the open-house public meetings and how to comment are provided in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Uncompahgre RMP revision.

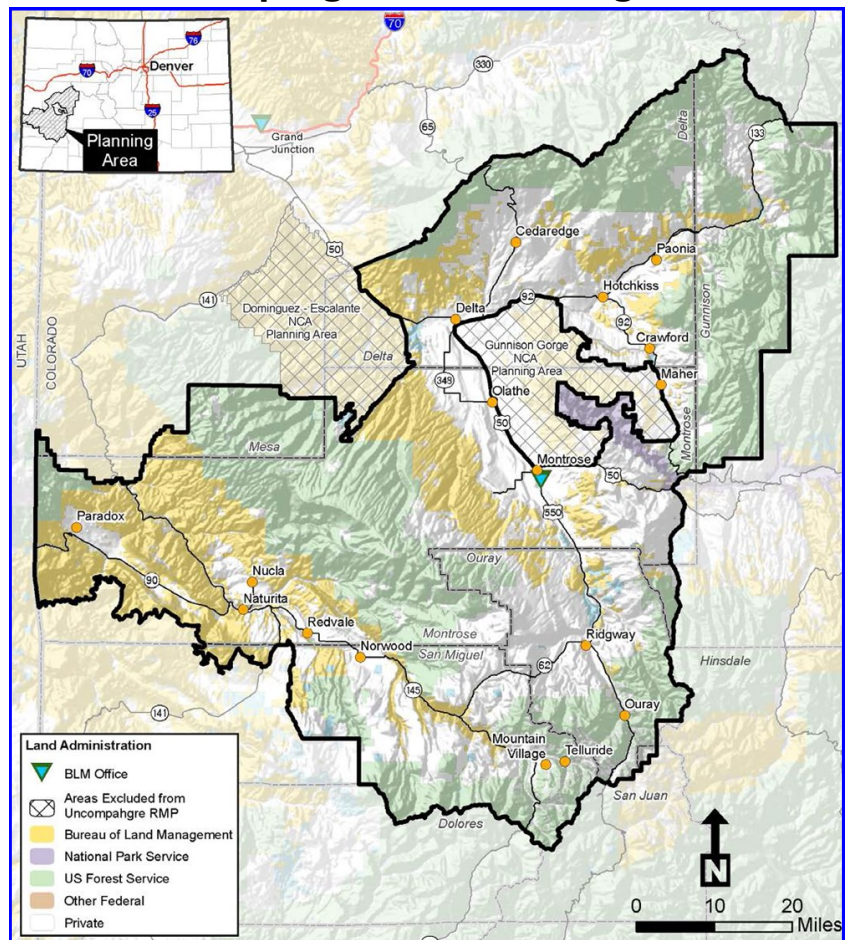
Planning Area

The Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area is the Uncompahgre Field Office but does not include the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) or the Dominguez-Escalante NCA, which are managed under separate RMPs. The Planning area includes 675,800 acres of BLM-administered lands. The RMP also makes decisions on 971,220 acres of federal mineral estate. Management direction and actions outlined in the RMP apply only to BLM-administered lands and to federal mineral estate under BLM jurisdiction.

Future Steps

The release of the draft RMP and draft EIS initiates a 90-day public comment period during which time the public may comment on any portion of the document. After the comment period, the BLM will consider all of the comments received and issue a proposed RMP and final EIS. Following the Governor's consistency review and protest period, the BLM will issue the approved RMP with a record of decision. Once revised, the RMP will guide the management of public lands within the Uncompahgre Planning Area for the next 10-15 years.

Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area



The Uncompahgre Draft RMP/EIS is available for comment June 3 – Sept. 1, 2016.

How to Get Involved

- Attend a public meeting (open house).
- View and/or download a copy at: <http://www.uformp.com>
- Visit your local library (shown below) where hardcopies are available for public review.
- Stop by the Uncompahgre Field Office to pick up a CD of the document.
- Visit the BLM Colorado State Office where a hardcopy is available for public review.
 - Libraries with paper copies: Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Ouray, Paonia, Ridgway, Telluride
 - BLM Uncompahgre Field Office: 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO
 - BLM Colorado State Office: 2850 Youngfield St., Lakewood, CO

To minimize printing costs, the BLM encourages you to review the document electronically.

Open Houses (6-8 p.m.)

Date	Location	Address
Monday, June 20	Ridgway	Ouray County 4-H Events Center, 22739 Hwy. 550
Tuesday, June 21	Naturita	Naturita Public Library Conference Room, 107 W 1st Ave.
Wednesday, June 22	Hotchkiss	Hotchkiss High School Commons Area, 438 Bulldog St.
Tuesday, June 28	Delta	Delta Center for the Performing Arts Community Room, 822 Grand Ave.
Wednesday, June 29	Montrose	Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall, 1001 N. Second St.
Thursday, June 30	Telluride	Wilkinson Library Program Room, 100 W. Pacific Ave.

How to Comment

The BLM encourages the public to review the Draft Uncompahgre RMP/EIS and to provide comments. We are particularly interested in information concerning the draft alternatives, the adequacy and accuracy of the analysis of the management actions, and any new information that would help the BLM as it develops the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process.

Please submit comments by **Sept. 1, 2016**.

- Submit comments by email to: uformp@blm.gov,
- Submit written comments to:
RMP Comments
Bureau of Land Management
2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire document — including your personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Navigating the Draft RMP and EIS

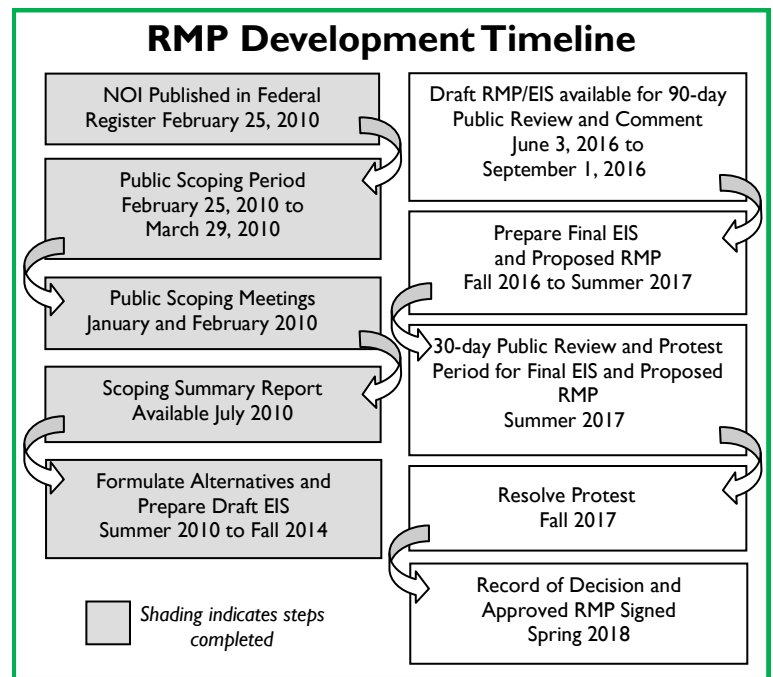
The draft RMP and draft EIS is more than 1,900 pages with five chapters and 17 appendices. The following highlights some of the more important sections:

- **Acronyms and Abbreviations**
Lists the acronyms and abbreviations used in the RMP/EIS.
- **Chapter 1. Introduction**
Summarizes the proposed action, purpose and need, and decisions to be made in this RMP/EIS.
- **Chapter 2. Alternatives**
Describes and compares the proposed management alternatives.
- **Chapter 3. Affected Environment**
Presents existing biological, physical, and socioeconomic resources that could be affected by implementing the management alternatives.
- **Chapter 4. Environmental Consequences**
Evaluates the impacts of the alternatives on the human and natural environment in terms of environmental, social, and economic consequences projected to occur from implementing the alternatives.
- **Glossary**
Provides definitions for important terms used in the RMP/EIS.
- **Maps**
Maps are in Appendix A. Maps are not printed, but are available electronically in volume III, included on the document CD, or on the Uncompahgre RMP Website <http://www.uformp.com>

Draft Alternatives

The BLM developed four alternatives for managing BLM lands in the planning area. The goal of developing alternatives was to prepare different combinations of resource uses and allocations to address issues and to resolve conflicts among uses. The four draft alternatives, and a fifth partial alternative, represent the overall range of reasonable management strategies.

The Preferred Alternative represents the BLM's approach for balancing resource protections with resource uses. However, none of the alternatives represents the final decision. A Proposed RMP will be developed following this public comment period. In developing the Proposed RMP, the BLM may select various management actions from any or each alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS.



ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION) – Alternative A, referred to as “No Action,” is the continuation of present management based on management decisions in the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP and 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP and their amendments. Goals and objectives for BLM-administered lands and mineral estate would not change. The emphasis would be on maintaining the existing land management direction for physical, biological, cultural, and historic resource values along with recreational, social, and economic land uses. The BLM would not establish additional criteria or change present criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation activities.

ALTERNATIVE B – Alternative B emphasizes improving, rehabilitating, and restoring resources and sustaining the ecological integrity of habitats for all priority plant, wildlife, and fish species, while allowing appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses. Goals and objectives focus on environmental and social outcomes achieved by sustaining relatively unmodified physical landscapes and natural and cultural resource values for current and future generations. This alternative would establish the most special designations with specific measures to protect or enhance resource values. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would be contingent on minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources.

ALTERNATIVE B.I – Alternative B.I is a partial alternative submitted by an advocacy group. It is specific to oil and gas leasing and development in the North Fork and Smith Fork drainages of the Gunnison River (referred to as North Fork), primarily in portions of Delta and Gunnison Counties. This partial alternative is a subset of Alternative B and applies only to the North Fork Alternative Plan area. The North Fork Alternative Plan would close certain areas to oil and gas leasing and would also impose development setbacks with strict surface use restrictions in places where leasing may be allowed.

ALTERNATIVE C – Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would emphasize maximizing utilization of resources, while mitigating impacts on land health. Management direction would recognize and expand existing uses, and accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses (such as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, ROWs, renewable energy, and livestock grazing) would emphasize maximizing resource production in an environmentally responsible manner, while maintaining the basic protection needed to sustain resources.

ALTERNATIVE D (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE) – The BLM's Preferred Alternative emphasizes balancing resources and resource use among competing human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity across the landscape. This alternative incorporates a balanced level of protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses. Goals and objectives focus on environmental, economic, and social outcomes achieved by strategically addressing demands across the landscape.